2 APR 1975

Dear Harold,

Thanks for the recent letter, and the news of the Nix showing. This must have been the first showing on US tv - because the Geraldo Rivera show in NYC - which showed Zapruder, Nix, Muchmore + commercial footage - didn't go to air till March 6. A friend wrote recemtly that the films may get airtime in Detroit soon.

The future of my proposed book is still uncertain - mainly because of the doubts youve sown particularly in the areas of responsibilty and potential 'error'. The more I consider your arguments, the more I fear the project.

Compounding the dilemma is the fact that the material people have so far contributed - as long ago as February - is so good. Col Davies, who you mentioned in your letter, for example, has produced a good, readable article on JFK's foreign policy and the way people have tried to tarnish the memories of what he achieved. A 28-year old graduate with majors in history and economics, he has taught American history and political science for four years here. Another (history) graduate, in Michigan this time, has delayed sending his contribution because of his concern for accuracy. "I need more time to make sure of it", he says. He is 27, and is studying the magazine coverage of the assassination for the last decade. His letters indicate the depth of his research (even medical journals), and his sensitivity towards the issue.

Then there are the set of Dealey Plaza photos 11 years later, taken by a young Dallas photographer - and the material of John McClure of Denver who has made an accurate 1/8th scale model of the assassination scene and sent me good perspective shots. Even the AIB article, which was being prepared even while you were telling me of their background, seems to be an honest attempt at rationalizing their aims and work. There is no hint, of course, of the money-making side of the venture or whether their presentations have been responsible, but the overall effect of the article (and that's what really matters) is one of idealism and reason. You, incidently, get an 'honorable mention', being included high in their list of the responsible critics.

I shortly expect to receive an article from the English 'JFK Assassination Forum', detailing their activities over the years. Over-exposed to the nonsense of Joachim Joesten for too long, in my opinion, they have overcome that obstacle and appear to be making a contribution to the subject that is worthwhile.

In my cowardice, I haven't had the heart to cancel all these articles. The requests for them were made before I wrote you asking for an article and, as I pondered your replies, time slipped away. In a sense, therefore, I may be obliged to go ahead. The other side of the equation - the one that weighs so heavily - is the spectres your have raised...fears of making mistakes, of living to regret publication, and, worst of all, furnishing nothing of value for the future.

My good wife, with irrefutable feminine logic, argues "Publish and be damned"! She argues that the interest that has been generated here, and the publicity in Australia & New Zealand for my first "work" is an 'achievement' that should be capitalized on. I suspect that financial considerations, too, play an part in her thinking, but I haven't been able to exact a confession - yet! She also says that the 'international flavor' the book might have, with contributions from here & england plus the US, might make me regret <u>not</u> publishing it...

To address myself to the specific issues you raised, I am confident that whatever I may write (and what I wrote in January) will be replete with errors, despite every care. That is reality. The vastness of the subject, its emotional aspects, and the false trails, ensure that NO-ONE, despite the best will in the world, will escape making errors. Of some comfort, perhaps, is the realisation that my understanding of the subject and the issues in writing about it have matured greatly in the past two months. Re-reading my little booklet of last year has aided me in this, as have your letters and the criticism of others. Understanding breeds responsibilty - and the stance I take on O'Toole, for example (having read his Penthouse article) is identical to your,s.

Anyway, despite all my attempts to change your mind, thereby evading having to change mine, I must still face the final reckoning - "To publish or not to publish, that is the question"...

Now to your problems. Can I suggest that Hong Kong PRINTERS might provide the answer to your WW v and Post Mortem holdups. They are incredibly cheap, and quote for delivery to a U.S. port. On a run of 5000, the per unit cost might be as low as 35/40 cents including CIF (cost of insurance and freight) to, say, NYC or Washington!

If you are interested, I would be happy to send a list of HK printers to you. The only problem is the sea-delivery. That could take 6 weeks, but you could offset this by getting them to air-freight you 200 copies for media publicity etc.

As for typesetting, I have access to an IBM composer at $ 6 a day(only at weekends). My wife and I would be willing to ~~in~~ do the job for cost - plus any bonus you think we might deserve once sales get moving...The only problem with the idea is the matter of trust. We would, of course, undertake to treat the material as confidential, therefore sacrosanct. Putting myself in your shoes, I would be hesitant to gamble on the chance of a leak of of good new material - but it is a solution. Anyway, we have made the offer.

I recommend, meanwhile, that you send the material Col Davies asked for. If there are any delays in payment, perhaps you could let me know and I will hurry him up. He's working full-time on a book on JFK's foreign policy, but his wife's out earning hard cash (What a life!) - so there won't be any problems.

As for selling ancillary rights to WW IV, no luck as yet. This is one of the last places in the world where people buy ancillary rights, because the independent newspapers and mags are few and far between - and they don't like to spend money, the skinflints!

If my book eventuates, the proposed biblio of currently available materials would hopefully, result in further sales of your work.

Very warm regards,

Ian Mackersey